NCTCOG Virtual Public Involvement During COVID-19

AMPO Public Involvement Working Group | May 6, 2020
Amanda Wilson, AICP
Overview

- VPI in Public Participation Plan
- Using Resources You Already Have
- Setting and Managing Expectations
- Keeping Your Audience Engaged
- Continue Providing Relevant Information
The FHWA and FTA are aware that some states and MPOs are looking to utilize VPI technologies and techniques for public participation activities related to metropolitan and statewide transportation planning...The agencies are currently evaluating the impacts of utilizing VPI in place of in-person participation where it is required under the PPP. As FHWA and FTA undertake the evaluation, States and MPOs may revise their PPPs to employ VPI techniques...

www.fhwa.dot.gov/coronavirus/
VPI in Public Participation Plan

- Development of a new TIP in a nonattainment area is the only MPO planning product that requires a public meeting – all other products require a reasonable opportunity to comment.
- NCTCOG saw public meeting fatigue set in after 2010 with very low public meeting attendance.
- Updated PPP in 2015 to allow online input opportunities.
VPI In Public Participation Plan

- Live stream and record even in-person public meetings
- Topics likely to get low turnout considered for online only input
- Utilize the same notification techniques
- Offer to send printed materials for those without internet access
- Develop input summary similar to public meeting minutes
VPI in Public Participation Plan / Using Resources You Already Have
Using Resources You Already Have
Using Resources You Already Have

Policy Board Meetings: A DIY Virtual Experience

- Send out agenda information via email/website
- Conference call for Policy Board members, same number for public wishing to make a public comment
- All others asked to listen via live stream
Setting and Managing Expectations

Policy Board Meeting #1
- Postponed non-critical items, meeting only lasted ~20 minutes
- No PowerPoint presentations (all material provided in advance)
- Used one conference call line with ability to mute all

Policy Board Meeting #2
- A few more presentations, but still not regular agenda
- Limited presentations, most presented by Director
- Waiting to test new Webex technology with technical committee, so still using conference call and materials sent in advance
Keeping Your Audience Engaged

Transportation Activities

Looking for ways to engage kids while staying at home? Interested in learning more about transportation while having a little fun? We've put together a few resources for kids of all ages. Also, be sure to check us out on social media for more fun and games!

Arts and Crafts:
- Air North Texas Activity Book
- Car Care Coloring Page
- Earth Day Coloring Page 1
- Earth Day Coloring Page 2
- Can You Design a Bike Helmet? Fort Worth Museum of Science and History/Discovery Lab
- Create Your Own Car: Make the world of Maritime Cammelari and get inspired to make your own vehicle by using materials from around the house.

Online Field Trips, Tours, and Education:
- Cavanaugh Flight Museum

For more info: nctcog.org/quality/bikeped

www.nctcog.org/trans/covid
Continue Providing Relevant Information

- Conduct as much business as possible
- You don’t need complex solutions
- Use channels to communicate what you normally would
- Now is a good time to humanize your MPO
- Use current data and track trends
Thank You

Amanda Wilson, AICP
awilson@nctcog.org
(817) 695-9284